

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING & REGULATION
BEFORE THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

In the matter of :

**MEREDITH LOUISE SOMERSET (f/k/a
MEREDITH SEDUN HARRY), D.V.M.**
License No. VET.2781

CONSENT AGREEMENT

OIE # 2012-32

Respondent.

By agreement of the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners for South Carolina (the Board) and the above-named Respondent, the following disposition of this matter is entered pursuant to the provisions of S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-320(f) (1976, as amended), in lieu of, *inter alia*, a hearing before the Board. Respondent, admitting the allegations herein and agreeing to the sanctions as set forth below, agrees to waive the formal hearing procedures.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. Respondent is duly licensed and registered to practice veterinary medicine in South Carolina under license number VET.2781, first licensed by the Board on September 11, 2009. Respondent's credential status with the Board is active.
- B. On or about February 7, 2012, Complainant took her dog, a 7 year old pug named Sally, to Respondent for an elective small mass removal and teeth cleaning. Complainant did not initially sign a consent form and later faxed a consent form to Respondent. Respondent performed the surgery, and Sally was discharged to Complainant.
- C. Shortly after Sally was discharged, Complainant returned to the animal hospital and complained that Sally was wheezing in the car on the way home. Respondent's colleague, Dr. Taylor, auscultated Sally and sent her home with instructions for Complainant to watch for abnormalities and to call with any concerns. Sally died the following day, but no necropsy was performed.
- D. An expert reviewer examined the case on behalf of the State and determined that Respondent maintained inadequate medical records in this case and was negligent in using four different sedative drugs postoperatively.
- E. Respondent waives any further findings of fact with respect to this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent further admits that as a result of the previous admissions herein, Respondent has violated S.C. Code of Laws § 40-69-110(A)(1) & (12) and South Carolina Code of Regulations 120-8(B) (as amended).¹ Respondent hereby waives any further conclusions of law with respect to this matter.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED WITH RESPONDENT'S CONSENT THAT:

1. Respondent shall be publicly reprimanded.
2. Respondent shall pay a fine of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to the Board. Payment must be made within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Agreement. Respondent shall finance the costs of investigation of the Complaint.
3. Respondent shall pay, within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Agreement, the costs of investigation, Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). Failure to comply with this requirement within the prescribed time shall automatically result in the immediate temporary suspension of Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine until such time as full compliance has been made by Respondent.
4. Respondent shall, at her own expense, successfully complete a pre-approved course on Medication Administration within six (6) months of the effective date of this Agreement. These hours used for the deficiency cannot be used for the current renewal period's continuing education requirements. Failure to comply with this requirement within the prescribed time shall automatically result in the immediate temporary suspension of Respondent's license to practice veterinary medicine until such time as full compliance has been made by Respondent.
5. Respondent shall appear and report to the Board as requested by the Board.
6. Respondent shall promptly advise this Board in writing of any changes in address, practice, hospital privileges, professional status, or compliance with this agreement. Correspondence and copies of reports and notices mentioned herein shall be directed to:

SC LLR -- Office of Licensure & Compliance
ATTN: Compliance Manager -- Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
P.O. Box 11329
Columbia, SC 29211
7. It is understood and agreed that Respondent has full knowledge that she has the right to a hearing and to be represented by counsel in this matter, and freely, knowingly, and voluntarily waives such rights by entering into this Consent Agreement. Respondent understands and agrees that by entering into this Consent Agreement, she voluntarily

¹ Further reference to the South Carolina Code of Laws and South Carolina Code of Regulations shall be by code section only.

relinquishes any right to judicial review of this or any other Board action(s) which may be taken concerning this and any related matters. Respondent waives statutory right to notice of any hearing held with respect to this Consent Agreement. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Agreement will not become effective unless and until approved by the Board.

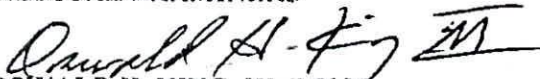
8. Respondent understands and agrees that this Consent Agreement will not become effective unless and until approved by the Board. It is further understood and agreed that, pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10 to -165 (1976, as amended), this Consent Agreement is a **public document**.
9. It is understood and agreed that if Respondent fails to meet the conditions agreed to in this Consent Agreement, Respondent's license may be immediately administratively suspended pending compliance. Non-compliance may result in further discipline. Any license law violations by Respondent constitute a failure to meet the conditions of this Consent Agreement.
10. This Consent Agreement shall take effect immediately upon acceptance by the Board.
11. Respondent understands and agrees that a representative of the General Counsel's Office and Respondent may be present during presentation of this Consent Agreement to the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that if this Consent Agreement is not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the Board to adjudicate this matter.

(signatures on next page)

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

5/8/14
Date


SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF VETERINARY
MEDICAL EXAMINERS


OSWALD H. KING, III, D.V.M.
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD


WE CONSENT:


MEREDITH LOUISE SOMERSET
(aka MEREDITH SEDUN HARRY), D.V.M.
RESPONDENT

4/24/14
Date


JOSHUA BENNETT
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT
Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC
220 Executive Center Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 744-5232

04/25/2014
Date


ERIN G. BALDWIN
ATTORNEY for the S.C. Department
of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box 11329
Columbia, SC 29211-1329
(803) 896-4581

4/25/14
Date